

Cottage News

A caring and supportive place for women

November 2021

PATRON : MRS BELLA PERRY O.A.M.

Issue 37

Our Vision:

- That all women and children live in safe, supportive and nurturing communities

Our Values:

Our values are integrity, respect, inclusion, compassion, guest focus, empowerment

HOW YOU CAN HELP CHANGE LIVES

- Volunteer your time
- Make a donation
- Leave a bequest
- Support an event or fundraising activity
- Become a corporate partner

Other ways you can help our cause

- By offering your specific skills to improve and



NEWS FROM KAYE'S DESK

Each month we get busier as more people visit the cottage for socialization and support . In October there were 92 visits. Of those visits half came to enjoy the activities and the other half for mentoring and emergency relief. We assisted 15 single parents and 29 children with emergency food hampers, vouchers and gift bags. We were also able to obtain temporary accommodation for 2 single mums. Still of concern is the number of single women suffering financial

distress and imminent homelessness. One guest is homeless and 34 weeks pregnant. One guest, potentially homeless was assisted over several weeks in her applications for rentals. After negotiation her landlord extended her lease for a further 6 months.

We are always appreciative of our volunteers and their commitment and hard work both at the cottage and the café op shop

I have kept a record of all the volunteers who have worked at the cottage over the past 5 years, intending, when I get time, to catch up with them. I rang one of the past volunteers last week to see how she was going. Some of our volunteers come from trauma and hardship and she was one of them. A middle-aged woman surviving domestic violence with no financial resource; no superannuation. When she was with us, she was struggling to pay for her rent and food. Any large bills that came in made life impossible. She was reliant on her family for financial support. She left us to find paid work which was essential to her existence. When I rang her, she advised me that she was now on the aged pension. She had been managing to pay her rent until it was increased this year by \$65 a week. She then became homeless. Fortunately, family members intervened and she is now living with them in Perth and is much happier.

Please remember her and many like her with horrendous stories of abuse and suffering who continue to suffer every day

Peel MEMORIAL RALLY and SILENT MARCH

Thursday 25 November 2021 at 10.00am
George Robinson Gardens, Sholl St
MANDURAH



Acknowledgment

The Board of Management is always deeply indebted to all our supporters and volunteers

COTTAGE ACTIVITIES

- **Monday:** Knitting Crochet
- **Tuesday:** Art
- **Wednesday:** Sewing
- **Thursday:** Cardmaking and scrapbooking
- **Friday:** Playgroup

To contact Café Op shop

9595 1670

To contact WA Mums Cottage

95005486

0431 222 101

Email: wamumscottage@gmail.com

We are thankful for donations which can be made directly through our website.

<https://wamumscottage.org.au/donations/>

Check out Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/wamumscottage/>

<https://www.facebook.com/cottagecafeopshop>

OTHER NEWS

Another financial year and the AGM have passed. We have a new Board of Management. Thank you to past Board members Irene Weber and Karen Archer for their contribution and commitment. Andrej Prosen, our Secretary has taken leave of absence due to work commitments. We welcome Lisa Dunne from Calvary Youth Services and Reverend Lesley de Grussa, Sally Glass and Don Tunnicliffe. Chair is Kaye Seeber, Vice Chair Adrian Wells, Treasurer Lea Stancar. The Secretary position is vacant at this time. We thank Shelley Eden for agreeing to be co-opted as Minute Secretary for the AGM. We continue with the review of the business operations and thank Helen Douglas for her professionalism and commitment to ensuring a sustainable future for the cottage going into 2022 and beyond.

CELEBRATIONS

The events team is currently making plans to celebrate 5 years of operation of WA Mums Cottage Inc. with a Thanksgiving Garden Party for all volunteers. Thank you to Jenny and her team. We constantly receive positive feed back from clients and customers about the welcome and assistance they receive from our volunteers. They deserve to be celebrated and thanked. See the happy workers Mary, Sue and Lorraine and Barb (below) checking out the Christmas display.



Reflecting on the opening of the cottage café and op shop last year and giving thanks to Karen and her team for the year of hard work in establishing it and creating such a welcoming and interesting environment; the success of which



supports the social work of the cottage which also celebrates its 1st birthday in a new place.

Pictured (left) are honoured guests at the 2020 opening of the café op shop